

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing 3-nitro-4-alkoxybenzoic acid, which comprises the step of subjecting a mixture comprising 4-alkoxybenzoic acid and 40-80% nitric acid, wherein the amount of the 40-80% nitric acid is equal to or more than 8 times that of 4-alkoxybenzoic acid by weight, to a reaction at a temperature of 30-100°C.

2. The process of Claim 1, which further comprises the steps of cooling the reaction product, and isolating and collecting 3-nitro-4-alkoxybenzoic acid precipitated thereby.

3. The process of Claim 1, which further comprises the steps of heating the reaction product to give a homogenous solution, cooling the solution, and isolating and collecting 3-nitro-4-alkoxybenzoic acid precipitated thereby.

4. The process of Claim 1, which further comprises the steps of cooling the reaction product, isolating 3-nitro-4-alkoxybenzoic acid precipitated thereby from the liquid phase and collecting the liquid phase, adjusting the concentration of nitric acid in the liquid phase to 40-80%, and using thus obtained liquid phase for the reaction step.

5. The process of any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein 4-alkoxybenzoic acid is selected from the group consisting of 4-methoxybenzoic acid, 4-ethoxybenzoic acid, 4-n-propoxybenzoic acid, 4-isopropoxybenzoic acid, and 4-n-butoxybenzoic acid.